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Note verbale dated 6 April 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations presents its compliments to the General Assembly Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and has the honour to refer to its note dated 19 June 2009 in reference to Peru's candidature for one of the vacancies on the Human Rights Council assigned to Latin America and the Caribbean for the triennium 2011-2014, for the elections to be held during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on 20 May 2011.

In that regard, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, an aide-memoire concerning Peru's voluntary pledges and commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights is attached.

The Permanent Mission of Peru requests that the General Assembly Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management publish the above-mentioned document on its website.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 6 April 2011 to the Secretariat from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations

Commitments made by Peru to human rights Candidature to the Human Rights Council 2011-2014

Peru has been unflagging in maintaining its policy of promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect for democracy and the rule of law. Peru considers all human rights to be universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. In line with this position, Peru has signed and ratified eight of the primary United Nations human rights instruments.

Peru was a founding member of the Human Rights Council, with its two-year term concluding in June 2008. During that time, it participated actively in the institution-building of the Council, focusing on the primary goal of promoting universal respect for and protection of the fundamental rights of the individual, based on the principles of legitimacy, non-discrimination and rejection of political selectivity. Currently Peru is using a similar focus in its participation in the review of the Human Rights Council.

Peru volunteered to be one of the first countries to be examined under the universal periodic review mechanism, based on its conviction that this mechanism plays a critical role in strengthening the global human rights system.

The results of Peru's first periodic review by the Human Rights Council were highly positive. The Peruvian Government had the opportunity to demonstrate the commitments and important progress made at the national level towards consolidating democracy and guaranteeing the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In addition, during the review, Peru reiterated the standing invitation it first extended in 2002 to the special rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups of the former Commission on Human Rights (now of the Human Rights Council) to visit, assess and present a report on the country, in accordance with their mandate. Peru has received visits from the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of people to self-determination, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people, and most recently, from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Peru has offered its full support to the work of these Council mechanisms.

At the regional level, Peru supports efforts within the Organization of American States to reform the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights in order to strengthen it through dialogue among member States, members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

The Peruvian Government maintains a policy of strict compliance with its international human rights commitments and respect for the recommendations and rulings of both the global and regional system for the promotion and protection of human rights. Peru holds that States members of both the global and regional system have an obligation to cooperate with those systems and has promoted many concrete initiatives to that effect.

Today, Peru is a democratic State founded on the rule of law with a legal structure based on the principle of the separation of powers. The Peruvian State values the important contributions of the inter-American and global systems to this process.

Peru has a National Human Rights Plan and works continuously to maintain and strengthen the foundations of an independent justice system that respects due process, fights discrimination against women and supports the rights of the child, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and older persons, among other vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, Peru maintains an Office of the Ombudsman, an autonomous constitutional body established by the Constitution of 1993, whose mission is to protect the constitutional and fundamental rights of the individual and the community and to oversee the fulfilment of public administration duties and the provision of public services to citizens. The Office of the Ombudsman is a national human rights institution that was founded on and operates in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Given that widespread extreme poverty hampers the full and effective exercise of human rights and weakens democracy and popular participation, the Government of Peru has been implementing social policies to combat poverty, which have been bolstered by the country's significant economic growth, in order to guarantee its citizens the full and effective exercise of their fundamental rights. Those efforts have translated into concrete and verifiable progress in indicators in the areas of education, health, child malnutrition and basic services, in some cases leading to the early achievement of targets set for 2015 under the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Peru reiterates its adherence to dialogue as the means for peaceful resolution of disputes and its firm will to act in accordance with its Political Constitution and international human rights instruments. In that regard, the Peruvian State has been strengthening efforts to prevent social tension and conflicts and will continue to work with regional organizations and civil society to gain their valuable contributions to human rights issues.

The following voluntary commitments by Peru to issues of human rights, democracy and the rule of law at the national level and within the framework of the United Nations should be noted:

At the domestic level

- To continue strengthening the promotion and protection of all human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, emphasizing their universality, interdependence and indivisibility.

- To scale up implementation of policies on social inclusion, equity and poverty eradication in order to create a better quality of life and continuously improve the well-being of all citizens.
- To make fully operational all constitutional, administrative and criminal measures aimed at eliminating all discriminatory practices and promoting the formal and substantive equality of persons under their jurisdiction, in line with commitments assumed under relevant international instruments.
- To continue the fight against impunity, providing access to justice and guaranteeing the right to due process, as a legitimate concern of citizens and under the constitutional framework of providing effective judicial protection.
- To reaffirm its commitment to the victims of the violent acts suffered during the 1980s and 1990s through the progressive restitution of civil rights and provision of educational and health reparations, and collective and symbolic reparations under the Comprehensive Reparations Plan.
- To improve dialogue with indigenous peoples and scale up efforts to improve their quality of life, focusing on reducing poverty, promoting their development and adequately protecting their living environment.
- To ensure the effective implementation of policies adopted under the National Human Rights Plan (2006-2011).
- To promote the ratification of all international instruments for the protection of human rights.

At the international level

- To continue its efforts to expand the promotion and protection of all human rights, emphasizing their universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated nature.
- To maintain active participation in the institutional strengthening and review processes of the Human Rights Council, focusing on the primary goal of making the Council more efficient in its promotion of universal respect for and protection of the fundamental rights of all persons, based on the criteria of legitimacy, non-discrimination and rejection of political selectivity.
- To continue participating constructively in the universal periodic review process and responding to the recommendations emerging from this mechanism.
- To continue supporting the process of strengthening of the Council's special procedures and encouraging more States to extend standing invitations to the procedures. Peru serves as an example of this practice, as it has maintained a standing invitation to such mechanisms to visit the country and submit a report in accordance with their mandate.
- To continue submitting and/or supporting resolutions and documents in the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on important human rights issues and closely related topics, such as democracy, extreme poverty, impunity and indigenous peoples, among others.

- To support efforts to strengthen the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- To continue fostering the promotion and protection of the human rights of all people, especially women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, and to continue to participate actively in all efforts in this area.
- To maintain its collaboration with treaty bodies by submitting pending periodic reports and disseminating and implementing the recommendations issued by such bodies.
- To continue supporting international judicial bodies, in particular by strengthening the functioning and effectiveness of the International Criminal Court and contributing to progress towards universal adherence to the Rome Statute.
- To promote cooperation and the exchange of information between the United Nations human rights system and regional systems.